



FSSAI PROJECT TO STUDY MICROPLASTIC CONTAMINATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS
The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a project to assess microplastic contamination in food products

AIM IS TO GENERATE DATA SPECIFIC TO INDIA
The project aims to develop standard protocols for the analysis of micro and nanoplastics in food products and generate data on exposure levels among consumers in India. "This project will help understand the extent of microplastic contamination in Indian food and guide the formulation of effective regulations and safety standards," the food regulator said

12% SPICES SOLD IN INDIA FAIL SAFETY TESTS
■ Close to 12% of spices tested in India failed to meet quality and safety standards set by FSSAI, Reuters news agency reported citing the data it obtained under India's Right to Information Act
■ The data shows 47% of 4,054 samples tested by FSSAI between May and July didn't meet quality and safety parameters, Reuters reported

14.5%

SHIPMENTS OF A POPULAR INDIAN SPICE BRAND REJECTED BY U.S. SINCE 2022: REUTERS

SC takes suo motu cognisance of Kolkata case

CJI-led bench to hear matter on Tuesday; protests against rape-murder of trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital get bigger

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

AMID widespread outrage over the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the case and decided to hear the matter on Tuesday. Meanwhile, junior doctors in several states remained off-duty on Sunday disrupting healthcare services.

According to the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the Supreme Court's website on Sunday, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra will hear the matter titled 'In Re: Alleged rape and murder incident of a trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata and related issue'.

Several letter petitions have been filed with the Supreme Court urging it to take up the case on a suo-motu basis, given the "brutal and horrific nature" of the incident.

One such letter petition was filed by Dr Monica Singh of Army College of Dental Sciences, Secunderabad, Telangana, seeking the SC's urgent intervention following a series of alarming incidents of brutal attacks on medical professionals.

The Calcutta High Court had on August 13 ordered transfer of the case and investigation from the Kolkata Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), citing laxity on the part of the local police. The HC transferred the investigation to the CBI after hearing petitions filed by the victim's parents and several other individuals.

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(From left) Doctors protest at Shyambazar area of Kolkata on Sunday against alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital; supporters of football clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan take part in a protest march near Salt Lake stadium, in Kolkata



Football fans clash with police amid protests



DOCTORS SUMMONED

Kolkata Police on Sunday issued summonses to renowned doctors Kunal Sarkar and Subarna Goswami and former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee for allegedly spreading false information. The police also summoned Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, hours after he demanded that the CBI interrogate Kolkata police commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

PROTESTS against the horrific rape and murder of a medic at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital spilled on to the streets on Sunday after the police clamped prohibitory orders and cancelled the much-anticipated football match between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The police action united supporters of traditional arch rivals of the two century-old clubs. In a rare show of solidarity, the supporters—men, women, young and old—of both clubs gathered at the stadium, with the slogan 'We want justice' reverberating in the air.

Around 4 pm on Sunday, the fans started assembling in front of the VIP Gate of the Salt Lake Stadium where the Durand Cup derby match was scheduled but called off by the administration, owing to security concerns.

Protesters questioned why the match was cancelled when there was such a large number of police

CBI grills ex-principal Ghosh for third day

In Kolkata, Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, appeared before the CBI on the third consecutive day and was asked to furnish details of the phone calls he made before, and after the incident at the hospital, an officer of the central probe agency said. Ghosh was questioned by the CBI for around 10 hours on Friday. He was again grilled on Saturday

force available. Outside the stadium, India defender and Mohun Bagan captain Subhasish Bose, accompanied by his wife Kasturi Chetri, and All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey joined the protest march. Chaubey said: "Football is beyond politics, religion or any colour. The match should not have been cancelled. If the fans are arrested, it's a shame for the state's law and order."

Champai in Delhi amid buzz over BJP switch

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren along with four party MLAs landed in Delhi on Sunday, triggering speculations that he is set to join the BJP months before the state Assembly elections.

After reaching the national capital, Champai took to X to accuse the JMM leadership of humiliating him and forcing him to look for "an alternative path". He also removed the name of the party from his X account.

After Hemant Soren was ar-

rested in January in a corruption case, Champai was asked to take over as the CM.

Champai said, that after Hemant Soren was released on bail on June 28, all his official programmes in the first week of July were abruptly cancelled by the party without his knowledge.

"Can there be anything more humiliating in a democracy than a Chief Minister's programs being cancelled by some other person? Despite swallowing this bitter pill of insult, I said

that the appointment letters would be distributed in the morning, while the legislative party meeting would be held in the afternoon, so I would attend it from there. But, I was flatly refused from there," Champai wrote on X.

He said after this incident he was "broken from within". When he asked the party leadership, he was told that a meeting of the legislative party had been called on July 3. Till then he could not attend any programme as the chief minister.

Champai said at that meeting, he was asked to resign and Hemant Soren was elected as the legislative party leader. Champai wrote that the 'humiliation' he suffered left him with no choice, but to look for an alternative path. "I felt as if I had no existence in that party for which I dedicated my entire life... After facing so much insult and contempt, I was forced to look for an alternative path".

He wrote from that day, he had three options — to retire from politics, to form a new party, or to join another party. He said all options are open.

MORE ON: P11

EXPRESS READ

Coast Guard DG passes away in Chennai

Chennai: Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal (59) died following a cardiac arrest here on Sunday afternoon. Pal, who took charge as the 25th Indian Coast Guard (ICG) chief on July 19 last year, was in the city for the inauguration of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre building | P9

Hospitals in Rajasthan get bomb threat emails

Jaipur: Several hospitals across Rajasthan received email bomb threats on Sunday, which turned out to be a hoax. Bomb disposal teams cordoned off the hospitals to check the premises, but found nothing suspicious. The emails had said that bombs had been planted under hospital beds and in bathrooms, police said | P2

BLIND SPOT

Wearing dark shirt, driving car? AI cams fail to spot seatbelt, fine many

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

A wave of traffic fines for seatbelt violations has swept Bengaluru, Mysuru and other parts of Karnataka, with many drivers claiming that they were wrongly penalised by AI surveillance cameras. Several drivers have taken to social media to express their frustration over receiving challans, despite wearing seatbelts. The challans were issued by the traffic department's new artificial intelligence system, which monitors compliance with safety regulations independently with the help of latest technology.

A Facebook profile, going by



the name silconcitybengaluru, complained, "Bengaluru traffic AI cameras are issuing false seatbelt ticket challans. The false tickets are due to the

similar colour of the seatbelt and shirt or coat one is wearing. The issue arises from the cameras' inability to distinguish the two."

Another netizen, Prithvi Chandrashekar, said, "I request people driving cars in Mysuru to check their challans. After seeing this post, I checked my car's challan and, to my surprise, even I have a challan for not wearing a seatbelt from ITMS Udaya Ravi Road (AI-based). P9

Soon, safety harness must to carry kids on bikes

The transport department is working on implementing the mandatory safety harness rule for those riding with children above nine months and within four years on two-wheelers. In the first step, officials have started creating awareness on importance of safety harnesses | P2

Aaj bhaiya ko maska lagao!



21-year-old raped by biker in city, accused nabbed within hours

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

A 21-year-old girl student was allegedly raped by an unknown motorist who offered to drop her. The incident took place at an isolated place on Hosur service road in HSR Layout police limits in the early hours of Sunday. Acting swiftly, the police nabbed the accused within a few hours of the incident.

The victim, who is said to be studying final-year BBA at a private college, is a resident of Hebbagodi. Five special teams formed to crack the case gathered information about the accused based on the victim's statement and analysis of CCTV footage. Following credible leads, the accused was nabbed by the police on Sunday evening. The police, however, refused to divulge more information about the accused, stating that the case is still under investigation.

The police said the victim and her male friend had attended a party at a pub in Koramangala. After the party, the friend took her in his car and on the way, he hit an autorickshaw near a mall, leading to an argument between them and the auto drivers. A Hoysala patrolling van also reached the spot on receiving the information and dispersed them. In the melee, it is said, the victim started walking alone and when she reached the NGV Junction, a man on a motorbike approached her and offered to drop her home.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Barber stabs Dalit youth to death in Koppal

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

A 26-year-old Dalit youth was stabbed to death by a barber at a salon in Koppal district on Saturday. The incident occurred at Sanganal village of Yelburga taluk.

The victim, Yamanurwamy Bandihal, had gone to the salon for a haircut when a fight broke out between him and the barber, accused, Mudakappa Hadapad. Villagers said the altercation ended with Hadapad stabbing Bandihal in the stomach with scissors. The victim, who bled profusely, died on the spot.

The brother of the deceased, Hanumanth, filed a complaint at the Yelburga police station. Senior police officials, including SP Ram L Arasiddi, visited the village and met the victim's family members. The village had turned tense following the murder and the situation was brought under control after the police held a meeting with the villagers.

Local Dalit families demanded justice for Bandihal. An official from the Yelburga Social Welfare Department said the District Social Welfare Department has been informed about the incident. "We met the victim's mother Yallavva and brother Hanumanth at their residence and paid our condolences," the official said. P9



Yamanurwamy Bandihal



Mudakappa Hadapad



Mahila Congress workers, led by party leader Pushpa Amarnath, protest against Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot, accusing him of being in cahoots with the BJP, in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR

CM, Cong to move court today against Guv's order

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress are all set to start a legal fight by moving the Karnataka High Court on Monday against Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot's sanction to prosecute the chief minister in the MUDA case.

After talking to legal experts, including his legal adviser AS Ponnanna, Siddaramaiah decided to file the petition, challenging the governor's decision. Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kabil Sibal are arriving from New Delhi to represent the CM. The case is likely to be heard on Monday, sources said.

Siddaramaiah, who was scheduled to visit Guru Raghavendra temple in Mantralaya on Monday, cancelled his visit.

Meanwhile, party high command leaders—AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala—held talks with the CM and also AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is in town, on the pros and cons of filing the case.

Karnataka politics is heading towards a decisive phase with Siddaramaiah calling for a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on August 22, Thursday, to take the party's 136 MLAs into confidence. The meeting is crucial as it will decide if Siddaramaiah should continue or quit as CM, if an FIR is filed against him, a source said. On August 23, Siddaramaiah is leaving for New Delhi to meet Rahul Gandhi, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and his mother Sonia Gandhi, sources added.

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